Demand for Woollen Garments Abroad

1547. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great demand for woollen garments abroad;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to augment production of woollen garments;

(c) whether the woollen mills have sought permission for modernisation of their plants;

(d) if so, the number of applications received in this regard; State-wise;

(e) the number of applicants who have been given permission so far; and

(f) the reasons for delay in granting permission to other applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes. Sir, There is a demand for woollen garments abroad.

(b) In order to improve the quantity and quality of production of wool and thereby woollen garments, various programmes have been drawn up by the Ministry of Textiles, which will be implemented by the Wool Development Board.

2. The Government has arranged several meetings with Apparel Export Promotion Council, Wool & Woollen Export Promotion Council and Indian Woollen Mills Federation, Woollen Fabric Manufacturers and Garment Manufactures to coordinate efforts for improving export of woollen including garments.

3. Government is also trying to ensure that machinery required for the production is allowed to be imported speedily. 117 items of machinery for garments/hosiery/made-ups of all types including woollen are now under OGL to facilitate easy import of garment manufacturing machines. These garments making machines are made available at comparatively cheaper price.

(c) No such permission is required to be obtained for modernisation.

(d) to (f). Do not arise in view of (c) above.

Utilisation of Loans from Germany

1548. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Germany, it was pointed out by the Chancellor that India had not been able to utilize the loans worth Rs. 2400 crores given by Germany;

(b) if so, the details of the loans taken and the amount remaining unutilised so far;

(c) the reasons for under-utilisation of loans;

(d) the time by which the whole amount is likely to be utilised;

(e) whether this issue was also raised during the meeting with offioials of I.M.F. and World Bank; and

(f) if so, the clarification given by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). A statement showing the details of loans taken under German bilateral assistance programme for on-going projects and the amounts utilised so far is